

TEIS has two new Statewide Coordinators

Joseph Fisher, Assistant Commissioner for the Division of Special Education has named Debbie Cate as the Preschool Section 619 Part B Coordinator and Linda Hartbarger as the Part C Coordinator for TEIS.



Debbie Cate has been with the State Department of Education, Division of Special Education as the east Tennessee regional preschool consultant since 1998. She began teaching in 1976, in a five-room schoolhouse, one of Knox County's first classrooms for children with significant disabilities. At times, she even drove the school bus. In addition to her fifteen years of teaching experience in Knox County, Debbie has worked in private settings, performing developmental assessments and screenings, consulting with families, and providing direct services to children.

This rich and varied background experience prepared Debbie well for her current role as the Preschool Coordinator for children eligible for services in Tennessee under Part B of IDEA. Debbie's well-known commitment to developing and supporting the best possible system of services for young children and their families in Tennessee, makes her a valued member of the Office of Early Childhood team.

Debbie and her husband live in Knoxville, and have three children attending college. She works out of the East Tennessee Regional Resource Center.



Linda Hartbarger has been with the State Department of Education, Division of Special Education as the East Tennessee Region Infant/Toddler Consultant since 2001 and, in addition, has served as the TEIS Project Coordinator for the East District office in Knoxville beginning in August 2005. Prior to 2001 Linda served in the role of TEIS Project Coordinator for the South East District office in Chattanooga for 12 years, beginning in 1989.

Linda's 17 years of experience with Tennessee's Early Intervention System has prepared her for her current role as the Part C Coordinator for children eligible for services in Tennessee under Part C of IDEA. Linda's commitment to the development and implementation of the best possible system of early intervention services for infants and toddlers and their families in Tennessee, makes her a valued member of the Office of Early Childhood team.

Linda and her husband recently moved from Chattanooga and are living in the Nashville area, and have two daughters attending the University of Tennessee.